MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFARS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) Consequent upon the gradual rationalisation of the interest rates structure by Reserve Bank of India during the last few years, the rate of interest on National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD's) refinance has been revised in consultation with RBI and fixed at 11.5 per cent p.a. with effect from 1.4.1993. As per NABARD's instructions, the Co-operative Bank (DCCBs) will be required to finance the working capital requirements of handloom weavers societies at the same rate of interest at which the refinance is available to them (i.e. 11.5 per cent p.a.). The operational expenses of the financing banks are expected to be met out of the interest subsidy provided by the Government of India|State Governmonts. NABARD is examining separately representations received recently from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Governments for reconsideration of the interest rate on refinance.

Interim Relief to Pensioners

509. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Miniser of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an interim relief of Rs. 100|- p.m. has been allowed on a uniform basis to all the Central Government employees w.e.f. 16th September, 1993.

(b) if so, what is the basis thereof?

(c) whether it is a fact that no intedim relief has been sanctionod in favour of the Central Government pensioners who are governed by the formula as recommended by the Fourth Central Pay Commission;

(d) what is the basis for denying interim relief to the Central Government pensioners;

(e) whether there is a proposal under Government consideration to grant interim relief to the pensioners; and

(f) if so, the time by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Staff Side of the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery had been domanding setting up of a permanent Wage Review Body as recommended by the Fourth Central Pay Commission. After discussions with the Staff Side of the JCM, Interim Relief of Rs. 100|- p.m. was sanctioned to all Central Government employees w.e.f. 1th September, 1993.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Interim chief had never been sanctioned to the Central Government pensioners in the past when the same was sanctioned to the Central Government employees.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Corruption in the Central Board of Excise and Customs

510. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been growing corruption in the Central Board of Excise and customs besides delays in redressing the Public grievances and that an official group was set-up to recommend ways and means to solve the malady,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the recommendations.